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REMARKS

Applicant has canceled claims 4 and 18-20. Additionally, Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 14, 16, and 17. Applicant has also added new claims 21-24. Thus, claims 1-3, 5-17, and 21-24 are pending in the application and presented for examination. Applicant
5 respectfully requests allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response To Rejections Under Section 102:

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the Examiner contending that
10 these claims are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,261,053 to Anderson ("Anderson"). The Examiner apparently reads Anderson as disclosing the disclosed invention. The Anderson device is a platform segment arrangement for gas turbine components in which hot-gas-facing portions of fluid guide platforms containing edge cooling bores are beveled to remove material from a platform region prone to flow separation and extremely-high temperatures.

15 While Anderson does include first and second boundary members, it does not include first and second outer air seal segments each of which including first and second opposite edges in which the first outer air seal segment second edge is characterized by a radially-aligned portion and a radially-skewed portion extending rotationally-downstream therefrom and in which the second outer air seal segment first edge is characterized by a radially-aligned
20 portion and a radially-skewed portion extending rotationally-downstream therefrom, and in which the second outer air seal segment first edge being disposed proximate and substantially parallel to said first outer air seal segment second edge, as is claimed in the present invention.

Anderson is directed at reducing boundary layer separation along platform segment gaps and discloses skewed platform edges beveled to reduce separation tendencies. Anderson
25 does address radially-directed pulse loads and does not teach or suggest outer air seal

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segments that cooperatively reduce pulse loading tendencies of a fluid passing radially away from a blade and through an interface gap, as are claimed in the present invention.

In view of the above, independent claims 1 and 16 are patentable. Dependent claims 2, 8, 9, 12, 14, and 17, 3 and 5-20 are also patentable at least based on their dependency from their respective base claims, as well as based on their own merit. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the Section 102 rejection.

Discussion Of New Claims 21-24:

The new claims further define the scope of the invention, as described in the specification and drawings. In view of the foregoing remarks regarding the other claims, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21-24 are patentable. Applicant thus respectfully requests allowance of claims 21-24.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims and specification. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the objections and rejections and timely pass the application to allowance.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the objections and rejections in the application and to place the claims in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this paper or application, or if any undeveloped issues or questions remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve such issue or question. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

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Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

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Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 1/30/06

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